

THE GARZETTE



FEBRUARY 1998

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



The First Annual **GARS** Techfest has come and gone and by all accounts it was a great success. Kevin Berry, KF4RMA is to be commended, first of all for coming up with the idea, and then for putting together what turned out to be a great first effort. I also want to thank all those **GARS** members that came out and manned booths and brought some good stuff for us to eat. The chili and cornbread that were served were all great and by the amount that was left I don't think too many folks disagreed. I also would like to thank Sandy Donohue, W4RB, our ARRL Section Manager for coming out and setting up an ARRL booth at the Techfest. This year's event will serve as a stepping off point for bigger and better events in the coming years. If you've got any comments about this year's Techfest and/or suggestions for next year's event please forward them to Kevin or myself.

At this month's club meeting we'll hold the annual elections for officers. As of this writing we have myself running for President; Marty Fowler, KE4MLH and John Sokol, K9AOK running for Vice President; Randy Drescher, K4HS running for Treasurer; and

Kevin McClure, KF4HFN running for Activities Manager. We still don't have anyone running for Secretary but I'm confident that we will have someone interested in the position by the time we hold the elections.

I'd like to announce some changes in the **GARS** Committee Chairmen. The people that staff all of these positions are our operations staff and our club depends on them heavily each and every week and month. Gene Gach, KF4NOG is now our CW Net Manager replacing Don Button, AJ1T. Don served for well over a year in this position and is looking forward to working on some new challenges. Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD is our new Net Manager replacing Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI. Jeff, KD4GPI served as our Net Manager for about two and one half years and most of that time the net control staff consisted of one person - KD4GPI.

I know from experience what kind of task it is to take on that responsibility but I did it for less than half the time that Jeff did. Thanks Jeff for a job well done.

Mark Kozma, KD3GC in addition to being our 1998 Field

Continued on page 8

GARS TechFest WrapUp

by Kevin Berry, KF4RMA

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society held it's first Tech Fest on Saturday January 17, 1998. The event began as an on-air discussion about a way for our club members share their wealth of knowledge and experience in amateur radio with one another and our community.

We started the day with our traditional Saturday morning breakfast, albeit a bit earlier than usual, then proceeded en mass to the Central Baptist Church hall, where the club holds its regular meetings. Setup inside included erecting tables for the many Ham radio-related technical displays; meanwhile, outside, KE4MLH, Marty Fowler, directed the setup of the club's portable tower to support HF and 2m antennas for the event.

Operating station displays inside included an HF station operated by K4GZZ, Karl Phillips. A 2m packet station presented by KD6CLO, John Farr, APRS

as part of the ARES display presented by KM4Z, Lowry Rouse, and a short range 2m link for an SSTV demonstration by K4HBI, Mike Swiderski. W4NVF, Howie Gould setup a rig check table that included demonstrations on soldering and VOM usage for some hams, and radio test and alignment for club members.

W4NJZ, Jud Whatley, lugged in enough antique equipment to give any two Hams aching backs! Among the glowing & crackling boxes were some of his original Heathkit and Collins radios, which he first used in the 1950s, and all were in working order! "Some newer Hams were heard to comment, "It's too bad that 'ol man Jud can afford to get himself a new radio." (They just don't get it!) Jud also did a nice job of representing the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

N1TOQ, Barry Zoll made a valuable presentation about

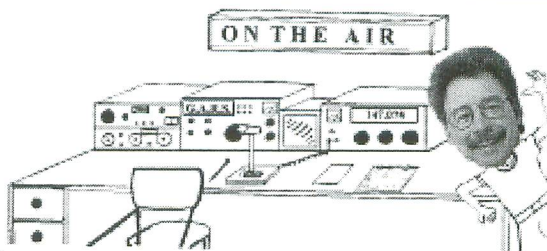
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On the Air with Marty Fowler KE4MLH

by
Karl Phillips, K4GZZ



This month's "On the Air" feature ham is Marty Fowler - KE4MLH. Marty is probably the only native Atlantan in GARS. That would make this FOWLER a rare bird. Get it? Fowler? Bird?. Anyway, Marty was born in Decatur and attended Wesley Chapel Elementary School and Southwest Dekalb High School.

At age 13, Marty acquired two Johnson Viking Whiteface CB's from a friend and gave them to Marty. This

was the introduction Marty got to the world of communications. At first, Marty was unaware of a thing called standing wave ratio (SWR), so he didn't put out a very strong signal at first. But, Marty made contact over the air with a kid in the neighborhood that knew a little more about CB radio and he came over to Marty's and helped him with his radio. Marty started to learn about antennas and the installation of antennas. At the age of 16 Marty began showing his expertise by installing CB antennas. He would let the operator pick the type of antenna he wanted out of a catalog, go buy the antenna and then charge an modest installation fee. Marty looks back and sees what might have been if he had marked up a little on the antennas! Not long after this, he began installing telescoping masts, tripods and towers. Soon, Marty...now a junior in high school found himself a partner in a

..."the professional courtesy and fellowship are the things that makes our club the strongest."

lucrative CB shop business. He became a partner in the shop while looking back, realizes that for a 17 year old kid, he really was making good money !! Marty actually became an inventor at this time, designing a vice grip device used by truckers to attach their antennas to their rigs. He failed to patent

his invention and later saw his device being marketed by someone else. Oh well! So much for becoming a multimillionaire, Marty. Marty soon began to expand his radio knowledge learning the art of wiring microphones, mainly Turners and Astacs for CB'ers.

Later, Marty worked for Calloway Oldsmobile and attended Atlanta Area Technical School, learning what is now his livelihood, auto body repair. He went to work at Royal Oldsmobile later, after Royal Oldsmobile purchased Calloway Olds. After a few years there he went to work for Leiphart Chevrolet. In 1985 he began working for Key Lincoln Mercury near Gwinnett Mall. Marty now is part owner for Gwinnett Collision Center which he acquired in 1986.

Marty got interested in ham radio listening to police scanners. While listening he blundered across the North Fulton Repeater and heard about a Technician Class that was being given. With the help of a ham, who just happened to be a customer of Marty's, he found out where the class was being held. Marty got the "Now Your Talking" book and



went to the Roswell Methodist Church to take the eight week course. After week seven, Marty felt he was ready to take the test. He passed Element 1 and then Element 2. Now all he had to do is not go crazy for the next 13 weeks waiting for his ticket to arrive. In the meantime, he went to both the Dalton and Kennahochie Hamfests. Finally, on June 14, 1994, his license arrived and Marty was officially KE4MLH. It took him a week to get the nerve up to go on the air. His first contact was with Bill Brandon - KR4KT (now WW4BB). Marty has passed his general theory, but let it lapse. Marty is currently trying to learn the code in order to upgrade.

Marty is on his second term as Activities Manager and has announced he is a candidate for vice-president of GARS. He has been a member of GARS since 1994. Marty is pleased with the membership of the club saying that the professional courtesy and fellowship are the things that makes our club the strongest.

Marty and his wife, Lynn live in Hog Mountain with children Trevor 11, Lindsay 12, A.J. 9 and Tyler 7. They also own three horses, 11 ponies, a dog, a cat, a bird, a tarantula, a hermit crab and a snake. Sounds like Wild Country Safari. Lynn started her own business

...TechFest WrapUp

Continued from page 1

called Peppermint Pony Rides and has been in business for about a year. She works fairs and has contracted with the Georgia Mountain Fair, Cherry Blossom Festival and the Cherokee Capital Fair. She is currently in negotiation with the Gwinnett County Fair. Prior to establishing Peppermint Pony Rides, Lynn drove a county school bus. The inside scoop has it that Lynn may be close to becoming a ham very soon !!!!

Equipment-wise, Marty has a FGR7 general coverage receiver, A FT220 2 meter Yaesu, a FT2400 mobile and a ICOM 3230 dual bander. He also has an HTX-202, a FT530 and a Yaesu VX1R. Antennas consist of a 13 element Cushcraft Boomer, a Bumstick vertical for packet, a 440 Ringo Ranger and an 8 element 440 quad.

This was my 22nd interview for the Garzette and each one is as enjoyable as the next. This one was no different. I have gotten to know Marty pretty good and now I know him a little better. Marty's a super nice guy and a very valuable member of our club. I look forward to our continued friendship and invite you all to get to know Marty too. Give him a call on the repeater, I hear he monitors a lot!

If by chance before Marty runs for VP, he should coordinate another event, such as a CONCERT, please volunteer!! Just one closing bit of advise. Don't hang out backstage jamming with the musicians! Gotcha, Marty!!

73 - Karl - K4GZZ

portable generators. He focused on safe operation, from the electrical and mechanical perspectives. Barry also provided information about selecting an appropriately sized generator for a given mission.

K4HBI, Mike Swiderski, amazed us all with his amazingly simple demonstration of SSTV employing two laptop computers, small interface cards built on perfboard (for less than \$20) and 2m handheld radios. He handed out how-to instructions for employing this technique on HF as well.

KD4KVY, Terry Lewis, turned what looked like a table full of junk and garbage (including empty soda cans) into inexpensive, and in many cases quite efficient, 2m antennas. Rubber ducks couldn't bring up the club's repeater from our ground floor location, but the finished soda can antenna was full-quieting.

KM4Z, Lowry Rouse; ARES District Emergency Coordinator; demonstrated APRS and recruited other to join him as active ARES/Skywarn Hams. KU4CK brought along his station-in-a-box, including HF & VHF & UHF rigs.

KD3GC, Mark Kozma, GARS field day chairman brought along his computer logging system and also provided information about contesting. His QSL card collection was impressive!

K4RU, Sandy Donahue, ARRL Section Manager, had a great display describing the mission of the League and providing lots of information about its activities and services. As a Special Services Club, GARS and its members actively support the ARRL.

KF4HFN, Kevin McClure, used a sophisticated HP network analyzer, borrowed from his cable company employer, to present a revealing demonstration about coaxial cable. Kevin put the feed lines through all manner of stress and strain, and explained the graphic results seen on the instrument. We learned that common insults to our cables (e.g., rubbing on a gutter, minor leaks in the casing, small kinks) can have a major impact on performance.

The Tech Fest began at 10 a.m. and

lasted until about 2 p.m. When it came time for lunch, there was yet another sharing of knowledge and ability among club members. Many came to the event totting pots of chili and baskets of corn bread. We had a table full of crock pots filled to the brim with chili recipes rated from "QRP" (flavorful, but not too spicy) to "FULL LEGAL LIMIT" and described as "Hotter 'n a black dawg in the July sun!" The fine meal added to the enjoyment and fellowship.

When it was all said & done, the GARS repeaters crackled with declarations of complete success and thorough enjoyment. The wheels are already turning for and expanded Tech Fest next year and expectations for it to become a much anticipated annual event.

ON MY OWN

To all GARS members and friends:

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who have offered me their kind words, prayers, and support during the past few months. Gail, who was always known affectionately throughout the club as Mrs. AJ1T, has finished moving into an apartment for herself in Buford, and has found several new friends in the area. She is working quite successfully at a small company in Norcross where she is well respected for her electronics assembly skills.

Life "on my own" without Gail has, of course, been a big adjustment - one which has required me to reduce my GARS involvement in recent months.

Thank you, Mark, KD3GC, for taking on Field Day again, and thank you, Gene, KF4NOG, for offering your capable talents as CW NetManager. Also, thank you to Susan, AF4FO, for rising to the challenge of Hospitality Coordinator for our 1998 Field Day. And, of course, thank you to Ike for helping to find these people to take over at a time when my recruiting efforts were really quite minimal.

It takes special people to make GARS a special club. These special people are uncommonly abundant in GARS.

Sincerely,
Don Button AJ1T

GARS Officers 1997-1998

President

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

Vice President

Larry Osborne, WT4XX (770)513-2799

Secretary

Bill Ahls, KE4EIH (770)279-7044

Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

Activities Manager

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH (770)682-5789

Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

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Jack Herndon, WU4H (770)995-0438

Publicity Chairman

John Sokol, K9AOK (770)931-3235

Newsletter Editor

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ (770)963-4316

License Trustee

J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S (770)339-9231

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Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

Contest Manager

Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW (770)476-5718

Net Manager

Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD (770)614-8750

CW Net Manager

Gene Gach, KF4NOG (770)925-0186

Rookie Radio

Carter Wood, KF4HLF (770) 923-9667

Field Day

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (770)449-0369

Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, KR4KT (770)985-8125

Apparel Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-3069

Christmas Party Chairman

Tammy Sokol, (770)931-3235

Digital Radio Chairman

John Farr, KD6CLO (770)279-8711

HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Don Ennest, KS4WR (770)923-4851

DXCC Checker

Frank Deak, AF4Y (770)978-6546

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Ares SkyWarn

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z
Gwinnett Co. E.C.



The state-wide ARES meeting in Macon on Jan. 24th turned out to be quite an event. Approximately 80 members were in attendance from all areas of the state. Official's in attendance were Sandy Donahue (W4RU) Sections Manager, Tom Rogers (KR4OL) Section Emergency Coordinator, Dick Baxter (K5TF) Sections Traffic Manager and Steve Strong (KS4EL) the Metro Atlanta District Emergency Coordinator. Also in attendance were the other seven state DEC's, the GEMA, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and MARS DEC's.

The group met at "BOB WHITE's BUFFET" near Macon at 11:30am. Of course we ate first before the meeting really got started. Sandy (W4RU) opened the meeting and turned it over to the SEC (KR4OL). Tom led us in roll call with the main purpose of verbally showing how many counties in Ga. are without ARES leadership. He asked each DEC to give a brief statement of ARES activity in their district. Most all were the same description; little or no ARES activities at all. In the metro Atlanta area, they're 6 EC positions open now. Steve has jurisdiction over 11 counties. Dekalb and Gwinnett were the only representatives at the meeting on Saturday. So as you can see there is a large gap that needs to be filled to be at 100% in the metro Atlanta area.

Something that was brought to my attention was the fact that a complete HF and 2 meter station have been in operation at GEMA (Ga. Emergency Management Agency) during recent disasters. Tom Crowell (KU4CK) is following up on how Gwinnett ARES can become involved with GEMA and what we can do to get status in our own county EOC. Mike Boatright (KO4WX), the GEMA coordinator, gave a short speech on Amateur involvement with the agency and stated that the state director has written all county EMA's and advised them to give attention to hams in their area and establish a relationship. This event should open the door to a better relationship between

Amateurs and county EMA personnel.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the ARRL ARES Amateur of the Year Award. The recipient was Robert Burton (KD4YDC) assistant DEC at the National Weather Service. The award was an etched glass set in a wood base signifying his accomplishments. Robert has worked incredibly hard to create a good relationship between Amateur operators and NWS personnel. Great job Robert!

Tom Rogers (KR4OL) gave a state of the ARES speech as a finale to the meeting. He's concerned over the fact that several counties don't have leadership present in the form of an ARRL Emergency Coordinator. Even though they're Amateurs in those counties, without an organized net being started with people familiar working with each other, their effectiveness will be hampered at best. So Tom urged us all to do what we could to promote interest in the ARES whenever possible.

Tom Crowell's (KU4CK) "radio box" that he displayed at the GARS Tech Fest made quite an impression at the meeting. For those who haven't viewed the "box", it is a complete High Frequency and 2 meter equipped cabinet that can be quickly set-up or moved easily in a emergency type environment. Radios are all self-contained with a deep cycle battery as a power supply. There is a grid map of Gwinnett Co., message forms, Red Cross emergency kit and a handheld GPS unit included. Tom received an ARRL coffee cup as a door prize for bringing the unit down for display. Then to top it all off, the "box" appeared on Macon's channel 13 six o'clock news! A crew from channel 13 was there to report on the meeting and they took a close up shot of Tom's "radio box" to show on their six o'clock report.

Now for local news here in the county. On March 7th the American Red Cross has asked Gwinnett ARES to provide communications between two loca-

tions where CPR class's will be taught. I'll need a crew of 4 people at each location.

One station will be set at Gwinnett Tech and another at the Kaiser Permanente Medical office on Steve Reynolds Blvd. Participating members will be needed to direct parking, give directions from the parking lot to class room and possibly ride on the Red Cross van that will be delivering supplies to each facility.

Please check your calendar and plan that Saturday to participate. The time is from 9am until 3pm. I hope to have enough people to work 2 hours shifts so no one will be tied up all day at the event. Be prepared to volunteer on the Feb. 9th, 9pm net. Also lets all start getting prepared for the spring severe weather season coming up soon by making sure home survival items are stored, extra batteries on hand, hand-held batteries always charged, weather alert monitors on, and listening to up-to-date local weather reports on a daily basis. That's all for this month. See ya on the air.

Some Interesting Websites

www.gwinnettfire.org
(Gwinnett Co. Fire Dept.and EMA)

www.weatherwatchers.com
(Central Atlantic Storm Investigators)

www.SKYWARN.com
(National SKYWARN)

www.geocities.com/BourbonStreet/1180
(Georgia. SKYWARN)

www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/3516
(Gwinnett ARES Homepage)

FOR SALE

Ameritron AL-80B, 1kW, HF Linear Amplifier—\$650.

Icom IC-970A, 2M-440 all mode "Satellite" transceiver—\$1285.

KLM 435-18C 440 MHz, 18 element, Antenna—\$50.

KLM 2M-14C 2 METER, 14 element Antenna—\$50.

Contact Jack Perry (KN6DO) at (770) 844-7306, or e-mail jackperry@msn.com

March Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, WU4H

1	KF4UPN	Barbara Moon
3	KF4GFA	John Newman
3	KF4PNX	Nathan (Nate) Hope
4	KF4SBY	Michael Herman
4	KT4ED	Bill Prince
6	KE4MF	Michael Warner
6	KF4RMA	Kevin Berry
7	KD4ZPM	Carolyn Thigpen
7	KF4LGX	Thorton Williams
8	KE4QOV	Lewis Eberhardt
8	W4UHF	William Kaufman
9	K1CFW	Carmine Guerrazzi
13	KE4KYP	Chris Fowler
17	W4NVF	Howard Gould
18	KF4BML	Paul Ahls
19	AJ1T	Don Button
21	KB4YYJ	Greg Yates
22	KE4ZDH	Beth Yates
24	AE4HN	Cheryl McClure
24	WA6NGC	Mark Fehlig
25	KF4QAC	Neal Hawkins
25	KS4WC	David Lankford
27	WV5R	Cameron Clayson
29	K4KGW	Keith Rowland
29	KS4EP	Bob Snipes
30	KE4MQX	Art Smith

GARS SK

Willard Brown, K4IR

By Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

GARS loses another of its members. Willard Brown, K4IR passed away January 28, 1998 due to a heart attack. Willard had just moved back to the Metro Atlanta area, where he returned too after an approximate 20 year stay in the Birmingham, Al. Willard was age 82. He suffered from lung cancer and his esophagus closed up on him. Willard, formerly W4HEG, was president of Atlanta Radio Club in the 60's circa 1965. He hadn't been able to attend many **GARS** meetings after the first one, where he joined. He always told his wife how he really thought our club was a great club. It seemed his day when I would pick him up to take him to the meeting. Some people have jokingly referred to me as the one who runs the "old folks bus." What they failed to realize is that I have gained a blessing from taking my Brother in Christ, Carm, K1CFW, the late Anna Golden, xyl of late K0JRG, Stan Golden and Willard. This is a painful day for this Gars member.

March 21, 1998 GARS Fox Hunt

**Come Test Your
Hunting Skills.**

**Winners Will
Receive Praise and
Admoration**

**We will meet at the
GARS Breakfast site
(Steak-n-Shake) in
Lawrenceville around
9am.**

Field Day 98, IT IS A COMING!!

By Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

Although Field Day 97 is history, its stories and memories will last a lifetime and are constantly being brought up in various conversations and QSOs. Well folks 1998 is here and another Field Day will be upon us. Field Days used to be spartan affairs riddled with words like "oops" and "d\$#n", where the most used liquids were iodine and calomine lotion, and sandwich meat was the choice of chiggers, ticks, or flies. However, the GARS Field Day extravaganza is synonymous with fellowship, party time, gourmet delights, laughter and oh yeah I believe somebody operated a radio or two.

For those that will come to Field Day 98 to operate radios, the following list is presented of who to see for those who want operating privileges and which time slots are available.

I think a small number of "walk-ins" can be accommodated, but the best thing to do is to get with the band captain and put in your reservation early before the best seats are taken. Remember folks these are all VOLUNTEERS and deserve admiration and respect for undertaking this Mission (of course some will disavow any knowledge of it).

1998 Field Day Band Captains and Rigs

<u>Band</u>	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Whose Rig</u>
80 CW	KD4KCR	KD4KCR
75 PH	KM4Z	KM4Z
40 CW	WE5O	WE5O
40 PH	KA4KKF	KA4KKF
20 CW	AJ1T	AJ1T
20 PH	K4HS	K4HS
10&15	K4GZZ	K4GZZ
6	KF4MZD	AF4FO
2	KF4HLM	KF4HLM
Packet	KD6CLO	KD6CLO
Satellite	KD4GPI	(1)
Novice	KF4NOG	(2)

(1.) Please contact Jeff, KD4GPI, if you can spare some equipment to complement his to provide a complete station for field day.

(2.) A solid state station is also still needed for the Novice category. Gene is requiring that the Novice station antenna be homebrew - contact KF4NOG, Gene to help with the construction.

I would like to publicly and personally thank each and everyone for their stepping forward to help make Field Day 98 the best that GARS has ever had.

Band Captains: Your major function is to schedule operators and loggers to keep the station in operation during the entire field day weekend. Also coordinate with the rig provider for any special circumstances that may be required. Also coordinate with David, KA4KKF on the antenna that will be used.

Equipment Providers: Your responsibility is to provide a station that is capable of operating the band and mode assigned. Since this is an "emergency" power operation favorite that you would like to supply, that is OK also. If the club is supplying the antenna, verify with David if you must also supply a tuner. A power strip should be provided so only one plug is required for the station off the "mains" source. The strip also provides a place to plug in a small lamp (quite handy when the sun goes down) and a fan if the day is hot. In summary, the rig provider should provide a complete station that can be connected to the antenna, a one plug connection into the AC mains, and then is ready to be operated.

If there are any questions please contact Mark KD3GC, David KA4KKF, Ike KE4GYM, myself K4HBI, or any member of the Field Day Committee.

January Meeting Minutes

by Bill Ahls, KE4EIH - Secretary

Elected officers in attendance: President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Vice President Larry Osborne, WT4XX; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer, Randy Drescher, K4HS, and Activities Manager, Marty Fowler, KE4MLH.

President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, opened the January 15, 1998, meeting at approximately 7:35 PM at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Introductions were made by about 86 attendees.

Ike opened the business portion of the meeting, and made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as presented in the Garzette. The Treasurer report was approved as presented by Randy. The current balance in the GARS bank account is \$5,078.91. Kevin McClure, KF4HFN, was introduced as GARS Ham of the Year for anyone who had missed the introduction at the Christmas party. General announcements were made. Techfest Chair Kevin Berry, KF4RMA, discussed Techfest activities planned for the coming weekend.

Membership Committee Chair Jack Herndon, KS4LS, presented 10 applicants for membership in GARS. Motions were made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new members of GARS are: Steve Cain, KB4WH; Rick Patchin, KD4RFK; Tom Fuller, KE4QCM; Robert Tyler, KF4VBR; Jon Connelly, KF4GWW; Thornton Williams Jr, KF4LGX; Vera Pound, KF4USP; Bill McNeill, KF4UZS; Al Ludwick Jr, N4ZZK; and Charlie Broome Jr, WD4CCZ. The Kennel Club Dog Show is coordinated by Marty our Activities Manager for Friday, January

31 to Sunday, February 1. More volunteers are needed for this worthwhile event and fund maker for GARS.

Ike handed out new autopatch codes from the repeater committee to help handle some repeater autopatch distractions. This is the first step and be patient to clear up some illegal interference from outside GARS control. If you hear anything more, please contact any repeater committee member or officer in GARS.

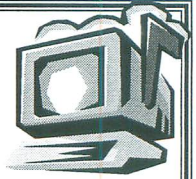
W1AW will attempt to work GARS members during the Techfest. Richard, K4RGS will visit W1AW to guest operate at this time.

Formal nominations for GARS officers were taken and seconded tonight. Nominations will be reopened during the February meeting and after this final closing the voting will commence. The current candidates are: for President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, for Vice-President Marty, KE4MLH, for Secretary None at this time, and for Activities Manager Kevin McClure, KF4HFN.

The program tonight was on radio direction finding (DF'ing) presented by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; and Eddie Faust, WD4JEM. The discussion was accompanied by video of "in the field" techniques and solutions to problems a new DFER might encounter. Ramsey kits and Rainbow kits were demonstrated and compared. A Yagi directional antenna was demonstrated. Good experience in direction finding will help with elusive DX and QRP. The group is working on a antenuator kit for general building by any interested. After the meeting there was a fox hunt.

There being no other business, President Ike Chapman, KE4GYM, thanked all in attendance, and appropriately adjourned the meeting at 9:31 PM.

GARS Electronic Mail List



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to **Jack Herndon, WU4H** and request to be added to the list.

Send to: wu4h@geocities.com

WELCOME!
NEW MEMBERS

by Jack Herndon, WU4H

Please join me is welcoming our newest GARS Members:

KB4WH	Steve Cain
KD4RFK	Rick Patchin
KE4QCM	Tom Fuller
KF4GWW	Jon Connely
KF4LGX	Thorton Williams
KF4USP	Vera Pound
KF4UZS	Bill McNeil
KF4VBR	Robert Tyler
N4ZZK	Al Ludwick
WD4CCZ	Charlie Broome

GWINNETT COLLISION CENTER, INC.

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
945-0161

Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

Mark Justice



Sharon Adcock

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Voice Mail: 770-495-3244
Office: 770-623-1900
Fax: 770-623-1919



MEMBER
MILLION DOLLAR CLUB



...The President's Pen

...Continued from page 1

Day Chairman has agreed to become the Awards and Contesting Committee Chairman. Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW who was the previous chairman is going to work with Mark on this committee. Carlton revived the **GARS** Challenge during his tenure and several of us have new wall paper as a result of that effort. All of these new chairmen will be looking for help in their various areas of interest and I hope that you have time to give them a hand when they ask for it.

I'm sure that we'll have some other changes after the elections so if you interested in one of these positions or in helping out on an existing committee please let me know. You might even have an idea for a new committee that needs to be formed to address an interest in the club, please don't hesitate to let me know about that either.

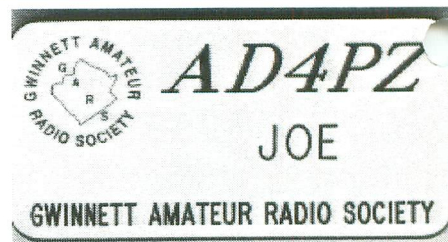
It's also that time of year that we're putting together the plan for the activities that we'll be undertaking this year as a club. This list is a dynamic list because one can never tell what kind of opportunities will present themselves for **GARS** to become involved with during the coming year. If you've got an idea for an activity that you'd like to see the club involved in please let a member of the executive committee know so we can try and get something organized.

If you've checked the **GARS** web page lately you know that it hasn't been updated lately but that's in the process of getting resolved. The ISP that hosts our web site for us had some problems with a hackers and has now solved that problem. I've been in contact with them and have gotten some things updated and am working on getting the entire site up to date. We'll probably feature a entirely new look in the coming months. My thanks to the staff at Gwinnett Communications and Radio.Org for their assistance and for their continued support of **GARS**.

One final thing before I sign off for this month, many thanks to Marty Fowler, KE4MLH for organizing our staff to assist with the Cherokee Rose Cluster Dog Show and thanks to all those club members that turned out to support Marty and the club. We had many complements from the staff of

the organizing kennel clubs and from a good number of those attending the show. In fact they've asked us to return in August to assist them again for their next show. We potentially have local kennel club interesting in us working with them as well in an expanded role.

Don't forget our weekly family breakfast at Steak N' Shake in Lawrenceville each Saturday morning, you can call me or email me for directions or get on either of the **GARS** repeaters for talk in. Hope to see you there



Make sure to get your own GARS Badge. To order, call or email Susan Swiderski, AF4FO



Shown here are two of the stars from last months's homebrew video on transmitter hunting. Buddy Menchew, KE4YZS (top) is shown holding two 'Bagged' HT's in one hand and his favorite hunting tool in the other. Earl Whatley, AF4FG (below) shows off his: "Laser Guided - Head Mounted - Lowered Offset Vertical Yagi - With a HeadsUp Display Hunting OutRigger."

Images by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



ONE GUY'S TIPS ON QSL'ING

by Larry Osborne, WT4XX

Fortunately, quite a few folks have decided to upgrade and earn HF privileges. Now, they will be able to talk to other operators outside the U.S.A. When that happens, the operator may want to exchange QSL cards as a way to preserve or document the QSO. How do you do that?

Many Hams do not subscribe to a major amateur radio publication. This article is intended to somewhat describe the basic process and how one guy does his QSL'ing. For those who read the major radio publications, or who have a good Elmer, the following may seem to be "stuff you know already." But keep reading, as you may have a different or better way of QSL'ing.

We will need to cover this in several articles. Since the topic is so involved, everything cannot be said here. There are several books available and the major radio magazines have discussed various aspects down through the years. Check your local library and your favorite candy store.

Once you start talking to people in other countries, you may want to earn some 'wallpaper.' In one case, this is a nice certificate which you can get from the ARRL which signifies you have spoken to amateurs in at least 100 countries - the DXCC award. But you will need QSL cards from those people you talk to in order to verify each QSO. You can use the QSL cards to earn a bucket full of different awards - from a certificate for talking to someone in every country to a beautiful plaque for making the required number of contacts with stations in Antarctica.

QSL cards are a written verification of a QSO. They are about the size of a postcard (although some foreign cards are a bit larger). You can make one freehand, on a computer, or you can order them from several QSL printers around the country (at a whole range of prices). The choice is yours. In any case, each card should include: your name and complete address, your callsign, the callsign of the station you spoke to, the complete date when the QSO took place, the time of the QSO expressed in Universal Coordinated Time (Greenwich Mean Time), the frequency or band of the QSO, the other stations signal report, your power and the mode (USB, LSB, CW, etc.)

Now that you have clearly and accurately filled out the card, what do you do with it? How do you get it to the station from whom you want a return card? Here is where more money choices come in. It is also where you make a choice of how fast you want to build your QSL card collection.

ARRL members can use the cheapest way possible. The ARRL provides a service in conjunction with other amateur groups around the world. Simply put, they exchange cards in bulk. You mail your cards to the ARRL outgoing service in Newington, Connecticut. You will need a copy of the ARRL Countries List, available for about \$2, and you will need to read the section describing which countries participate in this method. The publication will also tell you the current charge you must pay for this service. It is usually a pound of cards for under \$5 - now, that is a bargain compared to the other methods. You save up your cards until you have a pound, separate them in the order of the countries shown

in the list, include your payment, and mail them off. Postage for a pound of cards is relatively low.

Your cards are added to the pile of cards going to participating countries around the world. When the pile gets high enough, the ARRL makes a bulk mailing to the BUREAU, say in Spain. That foreign bureau sorts the cards by callsign and mails them to the amateurs that have envelopes on file. The station you talked to gets your card, and sends one back to you through her bureau. When the stack to the US bureau gets big enough, they mail it to the states. Your callsign determines which US bureau receives cards meant to be sent to you - you will need to read the material in the Countries List for the address for your callsign. You will also need to send them a collection of SASE 6X9 envelopes with at least 2 ounces of US postage for each envelope. When your bureau has about 12 cards for you, they mail them to your home.

This method allows you to send several hundred cards for about \$6-7. The postage cost for the ones you receive average about 5 cents each.

All things considered, this is the cheapest way, but there are several things about this method which you may not like. Your cards are delayed while you save up a stack to send to the outgoing bureau. The stack at the outgoing bureau sits there til they get a stack that is big enough to send to the appropriate foreign bureau. Then, you are subject to the speed of the foreign card sorting and mailing process at that country's bureau. Next is the time it takes for the foreign station to get a card back to his bureau, the time they hold it before sending it to the states, and the time the US bureau holds them while they accumulate a stack for you. You can shorten some of this by mailing your cards direct to the foreign bureau, but it will cost you more because you are not dealing in bulk.

How long does all this bureau thing take? Sometimes 6 months, sometimes decades. I have friends who are receiving cards from 20 years ago! The bureau is certainly the method

Where patience is needed. Also, remember that there is no guarantee that you will get a return card. One final point. When you are talking to the foreign station, ask if they accept and return cards through 'the bureau.' Some stations do not - may as well not waste your time and cards!

The next best way, from a money and time point of view, is to look for foreign stations that have 'managers.' A manager is usually a friend of the station who collects the logs of the foreign operator, has the QSL cards mailed to his address, completes the station's QSL cards and mails them back to you. Some managers are in the US, while others are located around the world.

As an example, say you have a QSO with OD1OD in Lebanon. When you ask, he tells you his manager is WT4XX. You fill out your QSL card for OD1OD and mail it to WT4XX (I am not a manager, so do not send me any cards!). Be sure to include a SASE with appropriate postage. WT4XX gets your card, compares it to OD1OD's log, and if everything checks out, he will fill out a OD1OD card to confirm your contact and send it to you in the envelope you supplied. Some managers even buy the blank QSL cards for the foreign sta-

Continued from page 9

tion, so it would not hurt to drop some extra stamps in the envelope every once in awhile. If the manager is outside the US, you will need 60 cents in postage to mail your 1/2 ounce envelope to that country. Include a self addressed envelope (maybe 4X6 since many foreign cards are larger than ours). For the return postage, DO NOT send US stamps (except under rare circumstances, explained in a minute). Frequently, you have 2 choices. You can include 1 or 2 bucks (green stamps) or 1 or 2 IRC's.

Why send them something for return postage? Well, that station in Lebanon only needs one card from a US station to confirm the US for DXCC (wanna bet he already has one?). If you were that station, how long would you be willing to buy thousands of QSL cards for all those crazy Americans, and pay the postage? In addition, postage in many foreign countries is higher than our rates, so it is nice to help the foreign station.

IRC's (International Reply Coupons) are available at the US post office. Each one costs \$1.05. The coupon can be redeemed in many foreign countries for the needed postage to send 1/2 ounce of airmail from any country participating in the agreement. Be sure to buy only current IRC's, as the older ones floating around the Ham community count as less. This way, you are not putting money in the envelope. Be sure to read the tips concerning direct mailing as many apply here as well.

Do not assume you can just drop some greenbacks in an envelope at will, even if you have them. Some countries forbid their citizens to receive foreign currency (ours). The manager you need a confirming QSL card from will not look too kindly on you if she is in jail because you dropped a few US dollars in the envelope! You can always check with the operator as to the preferred method. IRC's do not get the foreign station or manager in trouble. This goes when QSL'ing direct as well.

Sometimes, the station will ask for US postage to be loose in the envelope as they have a way of redeeming it or they have a stamp collection. When using managers, have a little patience as the manager has to wait til he receives the logs from the operator, and then he has to find the time to fill out all those cards! Obviously, you are better off if the manager is US based.

The third method is probably the most costly - mailing your QSL card direct to the foreign operator. Besides the postage described costs above, there are other down sides.

First, while most foreign hams are honorable, some are not. Yep, they take your IRC's or green stamps and throw your card away! Next, there are some bogus stations - unlicensed operators called pirates who are exactly that with your money. Third, some workers in foreign post offices open everyones mail and take the money.

If you have the correct address, the operator is valid and you make it through the gauntlet above, everything is cool, right? Nope, as you still must wait for the operator to take the time to check her log and complete a card for you. Then you wait for her to get to a post office (could be a 2 day journey by camel). Then, your precious return QSL must make it back through the foreign post office and be delivered to the states.

Each confirmation could cost you at least \$1.60 (not counting the cost of the card) by going direct or using a foreign manager.

Here is what I do to deter interest in my envelope and help assure it gets where I want it to go. First, use a plain no. see through envelope. DO NOT put a return address on it with your callsign. Those overseas postal workers supplementing their income drewl over those. Make the envelope look ordinary and boring. You may even want to use a brown envelope.

I tape the IRC or greenstamp to the QSL card, and then tape a dark piece of construction paper to each side. I fold my self addressed envelope and put it between the whole thing. After the envelope is filled, I make sure it does not feel too thick and lumpy. I attach the US airmail stamp to the outgoing envelope, seal it, and its ready to go. Like I said, its a question of money or patience, and sometimes both!

How do you get the cards you want in a reasonable time and not spend a bundle? There is probably more than one way to skin that cat, but this is what I do. I have things broken down into two catagories - do I have a QSL from that country for any band and do I have a QSL but need the country on other bands?

First, for the less rare countries, like those in Europe, Japan and most Central and South American countries, I use the Bureau. I send one out to every station in those countries if they use the bureau. I keep sending bureau cards until a QSL from that country for a any particular band comes to me. I do not get returns from all that I send, but if you "flood the market", you increase your chances of a response. For the rare and semi-rare, I hope for a manager, but go direct if I have to if I have not confirmed that country at all. If I have a QSL from Morocco, but would like to have some for other bands, I use the bureau or a US manager to save on postage. If the country has no bureau, I have no choice but to go direct or use the manager, even if it means the added expense of foreign postage.

As you talk on HF and start sending cards, you start to see that some foreign operators are on the bands frequently. I am at the point now that if a station is on, I check my logs to see if I sent a QSL card and if I got a response. Why waste my time if the guy never QSL's? Of course, if you want to talk to him, go for it.

There are several ways to enhance getting a return card. When in contact, tell the operator that "this is a new one." Many will put that in their log. Make that comment on the card as well. Some foreign hams have tired of QSL'ing, but will make exceptions to confirm a new one for you.

If using a manager or going direct, be sure to include a self addressed envelope and the appropriate enclosure for the return postage. One of the most enjoyable ways to enhance your chances of a return QSL is to find a station that actually wants to talk. I have found the ones who have a pleasant chat with you are very likely to send you a return QSL - and its a good way to get to know other people and their culture.

This is not the "Great Karnak" treatise of "everything you need to know" about QSL'ing - but I hope it is a start. Now, its up to others to tell us their "way of doing things" and their hints for success.

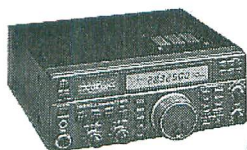
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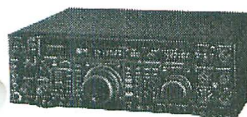
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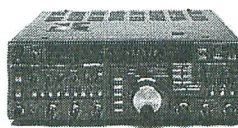
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Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta. Meeting begins at 7:30pm. Talk In 146.88(-)

First Wednesday

HamWatch

Alpha Soda Resturant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta. Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

First Thursday

N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Power Federal Credit Union, 4900 Ashford Dunwoody Road, 1 Mile North of Perimeter Mall. Meeting is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

Second Wednesday

North Fulton Radio League

Alpharetta Diner Resturant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Diner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

3rd THURSDAY

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the fellowship hall. Talk In-147.075(+)

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THE GARZETTE

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Born Printing

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THE GARZETTE

FEBRUARY 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on February 19 at 7:30 P.M.

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THE GARZETTE

FEBRUARY 1998

Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm (except Jul&Sep.)
Terry Jones, K4FB 770-967-6364
Johnson High School WCARS VEC
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg. 7496
N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56
Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville,
GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM
W5YI-VEC
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks
Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Headphones Provided!

Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	50.135	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARSCW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655	Voice	
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.